

HIGH VALUE OF ALFALFA PLANT

Thorough Preparation of the Seed Bed Is Essential for Profitable Stand.

USE ALL MANURE AVAILABLE

Plant Food Realized From Fertilizer Will Tone Up Soil and Nourish Young Seedlings—Apply Lime for Acidity.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Cardinal points in alfalfa culture include thorough soil preparation, neutralization of the soil by lime where acid exists, use of high quality alfalfa seed of suitable varieties, proper inoculation of the soil where inoculation is necessary; all of which presupposes the seeding of the alfalfa early enough in the fall to make the growth adequate to resist winter killing, and the development of a successful stand which will cope with the difficulties of unfavorable seasons.

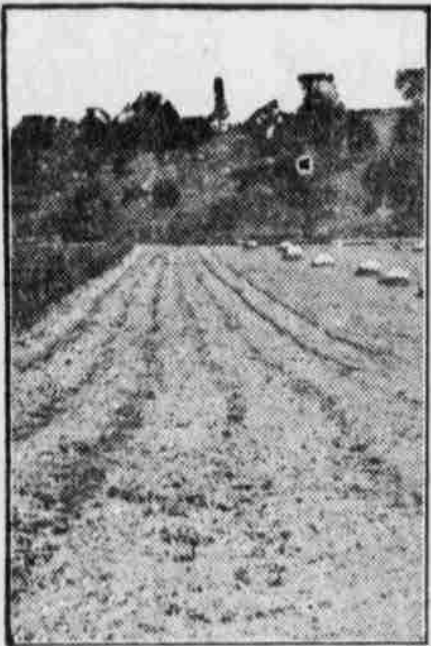
Applicable in Many Sections.

This article relates particularly to Maryland, Virginia and localities of similar latitude, although what applies to the territory named is also applicable in more or less degree to many other sections of the country.

Because of its high forage value it pays to devote much care, labor and scrutinizing attention to the production of a profitable stand of alfalfa. It is essential that a well-textured, tilthy, and thoroughly settled and compact bed be ready for the seed which should be sown not later than the middle of September and preferably during the latter part of August or the first week in September.

Manure Good for Alfalfa.

The misconception is wide that none but thoroughly rotted and weed-free stable manure should be applied to the field which is to be broken and seeded



Alfalfa is the King of Forage Crops.

to alfalfa. The fertilizing value of barnyard manure is so great and its liberal application is so beneficial to the alfalfa crop that specialists of the United States department of agriculture advise farmers to use all the manure they have available. The plant food realized from the fertilizer will tone up the soil and nourish the young seedlings so that they will get the jump on the weed crop, and once given this advantage the alfalfa plants will smother out the majority of the enemies which may develop. Save all the manure to which you have access and distribute it in liberal quantities over the field to be plowed for alfalfa, preferably before the breaking is attempted.

It is largely a matter of individual preference how many times the field is harrowed, dragged and rolled before being seeded. It is essential that the subsurface of the soil be compact, and then be thoroughly firmed before seeding. The seed should be sown preferably in a special alfalfa drill, as it is necessary not to bury the seed too deep, a mispractice which often results where an ordinary grain drill with a grass seeding attachment is used. Where the alfalfa seeder is not available, a wheelbarrow or hand seeder may be utilized. The rate of seeding will vary in different localities. As a rule, from 15 to 20 pounds of good quality seed to the acre are deemed sufficient, although in some localities as high as 25 pounds of seed are sown. A weeder is an excellent implement for covering the seed after broadcasting, but if it is not available a spiked-tooth harrow may be used.

Soils Must Be Well Drained.

All soils designed for alfalfa culture must, of necessity, be free from surplus soil moisture, that is to say, well drained, while they also must be slightly alkaline. The simple litmus paper test which can be made by any farmer will indicate whether or not the soil is acid. If acidity exists, it is essential to apply lime in whatever form is most practical and readily available. Burnt lime, hydrated lime, finely ground limestone, ground or burnt oyster or clam shells and high-grade marls are all valuable for correction of acid conditions. Very much larger applications of ground limestone and marl are necessary than of burnt or hydrated lime. As good results are obtained from all the forms of lime, price and availability will usually determine which form to use. If the farmer is not familiar with the

subject it would be well for him to apply to the director of his state experiment station and the United States department of agriculture for literature and information on special points. Inoculation of alfalfa fields is essential. The best and most simple system is to transfer some inoculated soil from an old sweet clover field to the new stand. This is best done in the afternoon of a cloudy day, the soil being distributed by shovel in the amount of about 300 to 400 pounds to the acre. This work should be done in the absence of sunlight, as the sun destroys the bacteria which induce inoculation. Local inoculation cultures are also supplied by the various state experiment stations and the federal department of agriculture upon request.

Grower Should Know Variety.

Before buying alfalfa seed the purchaser should inform himself fully regarding the variety best suited for his section and the quality of the seed with regard to both germination and purity. In choosing a variety or strain it is well to bear in mind that the quick-growing alfalfas, because of their tendency to produce heavier yields, should be used as far north as they will survive the winters. In the northern sections the variegated alfalfas, including the Grimm, the Baltic, and the Canadian varieties, have proved most successful in withstanding winter killing. In sections having very mild winters, Peruvian alfalfa has proved more profitable than longer strains, owing to its ability to produce considerably heavier yields. Usually it can be grown to advantage only in sections where minimum temperature is not lower than 10 degrees Fahrenheit, and where ordinary alfalfa will succeed. Throughout Maryland and Virginia all the common strains of alfalfa which have been developed in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and under similar conditions, give the most satisfactory results.

TEST SEED BEFORE PLANTING

Otherwise Full Crop Cannot Be Grown Even Under the Most Favorable Weather Conditions.

Practically the only element in crop production that the farmer has completely under his own control is the planting of good seed.

It is important that farm seeds be tested before they are sown. Otherwise, a full crop cannot be grown even under the most favorable conditions. Seed testing for practical results, says the United States department of agriculture, can be done much more easily than is generally believed.

The essential preparation for making seed tests consists of providing the simple apparatus necessary and of becoming familiar with the general purposes and methods of testing and the features of importance peculiar to tests of particular kinds of seeds. Ask the county agent, or write the department of agriculture for a bulletin.

RANGE ON NATIONAL FORESTS

Stockmen in Drought-Stricken Districts Eagerly Sought Permits to Save Their Cattle.

The demand for range in the national forests was greater the past year than ever before in the history of the forest service, which branch of the United States department of agriculture has control of these tracts. Especially in the drought-stricken regions stockmen, using the unreserved public domain or private pastures, eagerly sought forest permits in order to save their stock. The value of the system of range regulation in use has been so thoroughly demonstrated that representative stockmen from all the western states have declared emphatically in favor of placing the remaining unreserved public lands under federal control and having them managed under a plan similar to that in effect on the national forests.

POULTRY REQUIRE DUST BOX

As Chickens Never Cleanse Themselves by Washing, as Many Birds Do, Wallow Is Needed.

Chickens never wash, as many birds do, but cleanse themselves of insects by wallowing in dust. Where board or cement floors are used in the chicken house, some means of dusting should be provided. A dust box three feet by five feet, or four feet by four feet will be found large enough in most instances, the United States department of agriculture suggests, for a flock of 50 or 60 fowls. It should be placed where it can be reached by sunlight during as much of the day as possible.

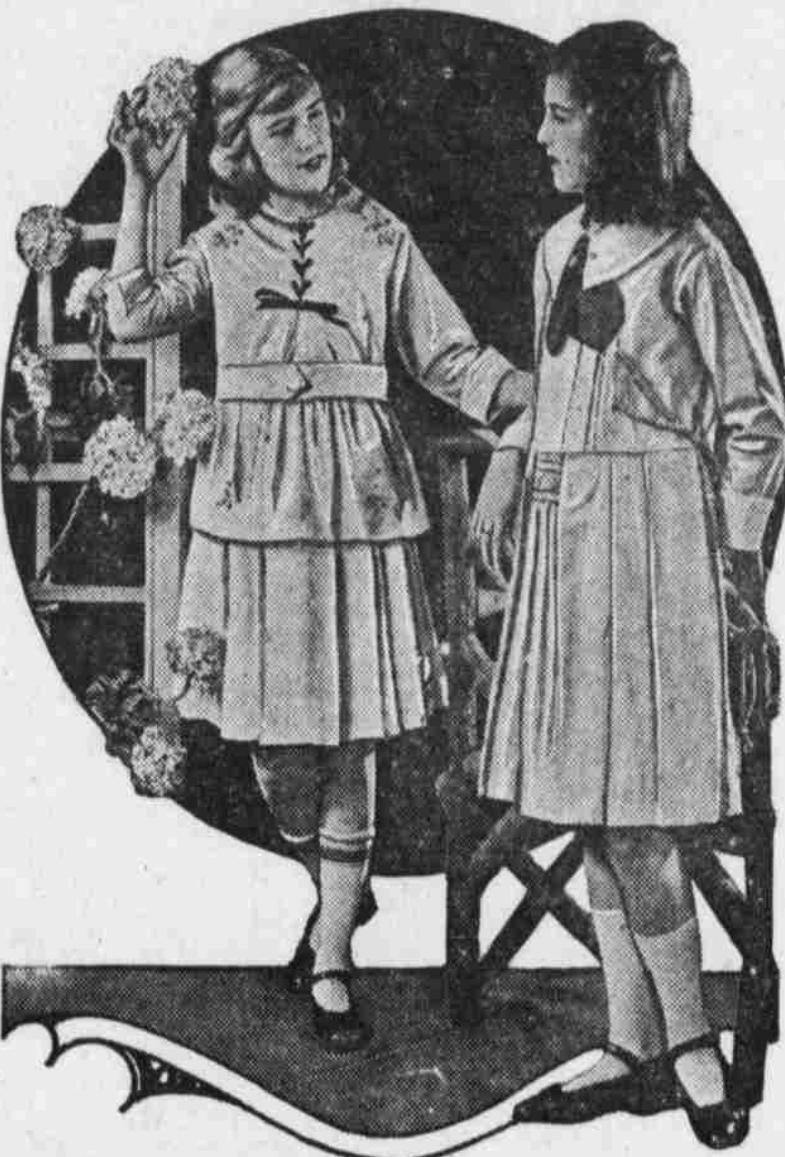
Fine, light, dry dust is best for the box, but sandy loam is good. Road dust is recommended by many, but it is often hard to secure. Coal ashes may be mixed with the soil if desired to make it lighter.

GOOD SERVICE BY CHICKENS

White Grubs and Other Insects Freshly Turned Up by Plow Are Devoured by Fowls.

Poultry can do good service in eating the white grubs and other insects freshly turned up by the plow. They do no service in picking up the angle worms, for angle worms accomplish friendly work for mankind. It is doubtful if man could survive upon the earth if angle worms had not prepared the soil for man's occupancy. Every acre of farm land has been agitated by angle worms over and over again and in this way made the soil fertile.

TASTEFUL FROCKS FOR YOUNG GIRLS



LENT usually finds the children's spring sewing well under way, if their clothes are made at home, or shopping industriously carried out if their belongings are bought ready made. The shops furnish as tasteful things as any one can ask for and as reasonably priced when the cost of labor is figured in. But there is some economy in making children's clothes at home and eliminating the price of labor. Besides there are little individual touches that may be put on by the home dressmaker.

Whatever the means of getting these outfits together, suggestions as to styles are thankfully received at about this time. The more important matter of selecting spring apparel for grownups calls for attention, with Easter close at hand and proves distracting. Two frocks for little girls are shown here with the recommendation to buy them if they can be found—or something similar to them, or to buy materials and copy them exactly. One cannot hope to improve on the designs but colors may be selected according to their becomingness to young wearers.

All white or light colors in any of the substantial cotton weaves will make the dress at the left with its box-plaited skirt and belted smock. It fastens at the front where it is laced with narrow black ribbon that slips through buttonholes on each side of the opening. A very simple spray of embroidery adorns the smock at each side near its hem and at the shoulders. There is a narrow belt that buttons at the front.

Chambray with collar, cuffs and vest of pique make the pretty one-piece dress at the right. It has a shirred front panel in the skirt with the lines of shirring defined by stitches in black mercerized floss and the remainder of the skirt side plaited. A black silk tie finishes the neck. A mercerized cord, that slips through slides in the bodice and ties at the back, is the particular pride of this frock.

IN THE SUNSHINE



Midnight on Bay Biscayne.

A TIDAL wave of tourists from the North has overrun and almost engulfed the coast cities of Florida during the winter months for the past two years. And it is no wonder. The coast resorts are simply heavenly and have reached that stage where they offer in addition to every comfort, unparalleled beauty to their visitors. A new day is dawning for them, too, for great numbers of people are coming to stay, building themselves homes and taking root, intending to spend the balance of their days in this sunny land.

The coast cities have, besides sunshine, the loveliest waters in bays and ocean that ever were. Sunlit, sparkling, white-capped, they are unbelievably brilliant in color, the most vivid blues and greens and purples. Nearly always a snappy breeze is blowing and the bays are full of pleasure craft and other boats. Then there are the palms in groves and noble avenues and the flowering shrubs and trees, oleander, hibiscus and many vines covered with flowers. Nature does not take much coaxing to make enchanting gardens. There are splendid highways the length of the coast, the joy of motorists, lined with Australian pines and this tree makes a most beautiful hedge also. It is natural that many millionaires have chosen to build their winter homes in such a setting and that new people coming to should make even unpretentious homes, places that are enchanting.

Each of the coast cities and resorts has its own particular attractions. Palm Beach is the mecca of fashionables, a glittering gem, finished and

Julia Bottomly

The Ostrich in Neckwear.

On a high-necked gilet of white silk chintilly lace and tucked net, trimmed with small pearl buttons, a band of old blue inch-wide ostrich loops were used to finish the high collar and the lower edge of the gilet. A band of picot-edged ribbon, sewed at the waistline of the gilet, added the final touch to this unusual novelty.

The Double Tunic.

An attractive suit of wool velours obtains a double tunic effect by means of the flaring coat and loose tunic on the skirt. The bodice buttons straight up to the turnover collar. Some of the material, plaited and held flat by cords, is used for trimming.

OUT-OF-ORDINARY PEOPLE

NATURE STUDY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, chairman of the conservation department of the General Federation of Women's clubs, is pushing nature study in the public schools, with the approval of Dr. Philander P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education and the support of the 2,500,000 federated club women of the country. Her 1920 report, which deals with conservation, natural resources, Americanization, thrift, home and school gardens, natural scenery and national parks and other activities of her department, sets forth that the boys and girls of today particularly need those studies that will develop individuality, strength of character and human sympathy. She says:

"Our boys and girls need a comprehensive, practical course of nature study—natural science—that is based quite as much upon actual outdoor nature as upon textbooks. The marvels of air, water and soil and the life history of animals and plants are valuable to them both as information and as incentive. Interest is the basis of application. Nature study holds a child's interest and utilizes, develops and extends it. This study should have dependent continuity in the grades and should rank with reading, writing and arithmetic in credits.

"With this beginning in natural science the future citizen is more likely to give appreciative consideration to the conservation of the natural resources of his country. Conservation means the best and fullest use without waste or abuse."

AUTHORS TO FIGHT ROYALTY TAXES

Rex Beach (portrait herewith), the Chicago novelist, is president of the Authors' league, and the league has decided to go to grips with Uncle Sam on the income tax. Royalties from books, short stories, plays and other literary work are dividends, the writers have decided.

With this as a major promise, the Authors' league has reached the conclusion that writers, struggling and otherwise, are not subject to the burdensome normal tax provisions of the federal income tax, and they have advised their 1,800 or more members to file their returns accordingly.

If they are sustained by the commissioner of internal revenue they will have to pay only the surtax—which is on dividends totaling more than \$5,000.

The league's fight on the "inequalities that now bear so heavily upon the writer and the artist" was started at a meeting of the executive committee, which is composed of Gelett Burgess, George Croel, Owen Davis, Parker Fillmore, James Forbes, Arthur Guiterman, Henry Sydnor Harrison, Rupert Hughes, Orson Lowell, J. Hartley Manners, Alice Duer Miller, Harvey O'Higgins, Channing Pollock, Arthur Somers Roche, Leroy Scott and Jesse Lynch Williams.

The letter enjoining the 1,800 members to list their royalties as dividends was sent out over the signature of Eric Schuler, secretary.



BUDGET MEASURE GETS GOOD START



Senator Medill McCormick of Illinois (portrait herewith), chairman of the special senate committee for consideration of a national budget, announced the other day that the subcommittee composed of himself, Senators Keyes, Edges, Simmons, and King, unanimously had agreed upon a national budget measure. The senate bill is a combination of the McCormick bill, introduced several weeks ago, and the Good bill, which was passed by the house last fall.

There will be set up in the treasury department a budget bureau, which shall collect all department estimates and revise them. The secretary of the treasury will approve them to the president, who shall have power to revise the estimates. The president, before the 10th of December each year, must submit his budget to congress.

In order to permit the secretary of the treasury to serve as a real finance officer and not compete with his colleagues in the cabinet as a spending officer, the extraneous bureaus in the treasury will be transferred to other departments.

The bill creates a department, independent of all others, known as the accounting department. This department will review the expenditures made by the departments and report on them to congress, suggesting improvements.

HALE HOLDEN WILL HEAD THE "Q"

Hale Holden (portrait herewith) and Claude George Burnham, have been selected to take the helm of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad and the associated systems when Uncle Sam relinquishes control on March 1. They are among the first of the rail kings to be named for the coming era of American transportation under private control. Both are Chicagoans, and in years gone by they have won their place as leaders of the railroad men in the greatest railroad center of the world by hard work.

Mr. Holden will become president and chairman of the executive committee of the "Q," which position he held before the war. As president of the "Q," he is also president of the Colorado and Southern.

Mr. Burnham will be executive vice president of the Burlington and Colorado and Southern.

Mr. Holden was born in Kansas City 51 years ago. Contrary to the traditions of the rails, he did not start as a section hand. He is a graduate of Williams college and Harvard law school. After becoming an expert in interstate law, he worked into the railroad business from the bar.

